September 19, 1980

Jerry:

Our thoughts + prayers are with BJ. Hope he has a speedy recovery.

Best,

Ron

STUFF

MURD'RING MINISTERS is a gamezine featuring postal DIPLOMACY and other multi-player wargames. It is brought to you monthly, featuring three week deadlines by Ron Brown, 1528 El Sereno Pl., Bakersfield, CA 93304. Phone is (805) 834-8409. The subscription rate is $5.50/12 issues. See the GAME OPENINGS section for individual gamefees, and available game openings.

First off, let me say that this issue is going to many of you as a sample, both requested and unrequested. I hope many of you who are reading MM for the first time will like it enough to subscribe. Reading material is always given a high priority in this zine so maybe some of you would like to sub even if you are not presently seeking a game. Regardless, I hope you like this one.

Well, this is it. Is it a little easier to read than the ditto or what? I hope all of you like it as well as I do. By the way, while mentioning the mimeo, this issue's "Murd'ring Minister of the Month" award goes to Stephen Lee who contributed $5.00 and Jim Williams who kicked in $10.00 towards the price of the machine. It kind of chokes you up to know there are people that appreciative of the publication of MM that they donate money to help. Thanks Stephen and Jim, it's a hell of a compliment and it is very much appreciated.

Konrad Baumeister has made it official--EGGNOG's end is in sight. He will continue as ever until all games are completed. For more on this story, see this issue's 'Editorial'.

A reminder to you all (as Gary Coughlan would say): articles are always being solicited for publication in MM. Payment is one free issue per typed page. Extend those subs today!

The Sub-2 game will be carried as an insert with MM from now on going only to the players in the game. With all the hidden movement and spotting rules, it's not much to observe as a spectator. Thus, the insert status. Unless there is a demand for it (see the Questionairre this issue pg.19) the MACHIAVELLI game GGMd by Jim Broshot will be handled the same way.

Speaking of which -- yes, that's right! In this issue is a questionairre form for the first time in MM. Please don't break my heart and ignore it! Just take a couple of minutes and fill it out and enclose it with your next mailing of orders to myself or Al. We really appreciate your participation. Help make this your zine by telling us what you want!

KOBOLD is a new zine by Bob Albrecht, #17, 5 Acadia Rd., West Lethbridge, Alta T1H 4C1 CANADA. He has openings in reg. DIP with a gamefee of only $1.25. The sub rate is 35¢/issue. Bob has taken an orphan which I'm playing in. Write for a sample.

This is not new news but neither is it nude news therefore it must be semi-old news. EVERYTHING #45 (E is the official publication of the Boardman Number Custodian) has the game stats for 1977HT in which David Crockett scored a win with England in 1918 by owning 32(!) Supply Centers. This must be a record of some kind for most S.C. taken. Congrats to Dave!

((EVEN STILL MORE STUFF on pg.18))

THE STATE OF THE HOBBY
a
MURD'RING MINISTERS EDITORIAL
by
Ron Brown (Ye Olde
Main Minister)

The hobby of postal DIPLOMACY is alive and well, thank you. There were 52 DIPLOMACY 'zines rated on the main list of the Leeder Poll this year, a 58% increase from last year. Ninety-three ballots were cast this year as opposed to 72 the year before (up 29%). Despite increased costs, people are publishing and playing more postal DIPLOMACY than ever before. The hobby is thriving.

I suppose I should preface the following remarks by saying farewell to EGGNOG, Konrad Baumeister's long-running excellent DIPLOMACY 'zine. I and others will certainly miss getting our issues from a reliable, punctual, literary, and sometimes opinionated publisher. EGGNOG always presented well-GM'd games and a definite style of its own; from musical commentary to the strategy and tactics articles Konrad held in such disdain, but included because some of his readers enjoyed them. I received my final EGGNOG (#54) the other day and I'm the sadder for it. But let me hastily add (at Konrad's insistence) that he is not folding his zine. In his own words, "For several reasons, it now appears that the Crossroads Press International will (have to) shut down not long after . . . December 1980." (pg.6,Col 1) and "I am withdrawing slowly from the postal Diplomacy community. I am not folding! . . . It ((EGGNOG)) is simply not opening any more games." (pg. 9, Col2). Konrad plans on continuing to GM all of the current games to completion or at least until Christmas (his 10th anniversary in the hobby) depending upon how he feels at the time. Then he will fold EGGNOG. (If fold = not publishing anymore, as I think it does). The reasons Konrad gives for ceasing the publication of EGGNOG as well as getting out of the hobby altogether is what has prompted me to state my opinion on a few things as well.

The reasons Konrad lists for leaving the hobby are:

1) The high attrition rate of the hobby. Very few of the people involved in the hobby prior to 1975 are still around. "Other people can go ahead and play the game, but it's not worth anything to me without the people around me in '75."
2) The preponderance of Wargamers in the hobby.
3) Going away to college.
4) Inflation.
5) The constant pettiness and small thinking of some of the people in the hobby.
6) It's no longer the same hobby as in 1970. ((?))

Konrad concludes by stating he wishes he would have quit in 1976 instead of 1980-81 and saying, ". . . The vast majority of Diplomacy players are at least tolerable . . . it's just that the other sticks out so much." (pg. 10, Col2).

Hmmmmmmm. What do you think about this? Do you agree with a guy who's been publishing for two years and involved in the hobby for nearly ten? Shouldn't he know? Although he makes a couple of good points, I also disagree with many things he has stated as "fact" and would like to discuss a few things on the "state of the hobby" myself.

First of all, Konrad emphasizes that the hobby today is not what it used to be and that the quality of gamezines is down remarkable from the excellence of 1969-72 'zines. He goes so far to state, "There is not one single 'zine being put out today that would not look absolutely pitiful when compared to the average 'zine published in 1972--not one!" (pg 6, Col 2). This is a pretty generalized statement and one that is not supported by any proff. Sorry, Konrad, I won't take your word for it. I'm sure there were many excellent 'zines in years past--there always have been. I think that whenever you are dealing with an original

((Con't next pg.))

concept there is something about it that gives it an edge over any succeeding versions along a similar line. For example, some of the works of early science fiction writers are not as well written, do not have the literary merit of many works being written today. However, because they were pioneers in a genre and doing something never before done, they gained a greater notoriety and reputation as writers. An author using a theme today that has already been done before is at a big disadvantage, even if he improves upon it.

I think that this can be carried over to gamezine publishing as well. Plus there's the point that once you have seen something many times you are less likely to be as impressed as you were the first few times you saw it. The first time you read DIPLOMACY WORLD perhaps you were very impressed with it. Now that you have seen twelve issues of DW come and go, you are less likely to feel the same. Another parallel is this: the first time I visited DISNEYLAND when I was 8 years old, I was in awe of the place. Now that I'm twenty years older and have been there many times, it's not quite the same. Perhaps I was more impressionable when I was younger. Maybe Konrad was, too.

As for Konrad's contention #2, that no one gives a damn about having fun anymore because the hobby is full of wargamers; well, it just ain't true. I know many of you enjoy DIPLOMACY and no other wargames at all. And as for no one having fun anymore, with press mf or otherwise, he should be in a few of the games I've seen in VOD, BB, GD, (or even MM).

Talking about inflation--this is a problem not only in the hobby but everywhere else as well. Konrad compares the price of a DIPLOMACY 'zine in 1970 (15¢ ea.) to 1980 (35¢-80¢). It is a sad but true fact that all the costs involved with our hobby have risen greatly in the past decade; even the past couple of years have given us radical increases. But if you want to compare a few other price increases check these out: Utility costs have multiplied like crazy. A friend of mine told me the other day his PG&E bill was $20.00 a month in 1970. Last month he received a bill for $295.00! I could cite numerous other examples but personally, 15¢ for a stamp seems like a drop in the bucket. Hell, a candy bar costs twice as much! Case closed.

Konrad says there are many huge egos in the hobby. Perhaps. Has it ever been otherwise? Will it ever be otherwise? I doubt it.

Well, Konrad, this hobby needs people like you and somehow I feel that we haven't heard the last of you even after Crossroads Press International is no more. The demise of EGGNOG will create a void in the hobby that was uniquely filled. I wish you the best in your new college career and hope you stay in touch.

But as for the postal DIPLOMACY hobby as a whole, it'll still be here if and when you choose to return. And you may find it's really not as bad as you once felt it was.

RB

* * * * * *

"His life was gentle, and the elements
So mix'd in him that Nature might
stand up
And say to all the world, "This was a
man!"

JULIUS CAESAR, V, v, 73

THE IDIOT'S IDIOM (a Book Review)
by
Ron Brown

RENDEZVOUS WITH RAMA by Arthur C. Clarke

Picture the year 2130 where mankind has managed not only to avoid eelf-extermination, but has spread his habitation throughout the solar system. Man has esttlements on Mercury, Earth, Luna, Mars, Ganymede, Titan, and Triton. Interplanetary spaceflights are commonplace, if sxpensive, and the mineral resources of the solar system are being tapped. Most men are convinced that life ie a unique accident that occurred only in our planetary systsm. That is, until a new celestial body appears on the outer reaches of Pluto; an asteroid which is named Rama. Only too soon it becomes obvious that it is not a natural object, but a vast cylinder--31 milee long and 12½ across.

The implications of this are obvious. What level must a technology have attained to be able to construct such an impreesive interstellar space ship? Careful monitoring eeems to indicate that this huge vessel is hollow . . . and dead. A probe ie eent to observe it more closely and the photos show that it can only be a spaceship. A human spaceship is sent to rendezvoue with "Rama" (ths name chosen from Hindu belief since all the Greek and Roman namee were used up long ago).

The landing eite on the huge cylinder's flat north pole is carefully chosen and the ship Endeavor landed and secured. Very carefully, the three airlocks they find are opened and the great blackness of the interior explored for the first time. Inside the ship, careful test descents and ascents of the three ladders are made and the air is found to bo breathable by humans. After thess preliminary explorations have beon made search teams are made up and sent to different parts of Rama. Because of the rotation of the cylinder, the centrifugal force allows one to walk on any outer wall. The gravity decreasee to zero at the "poles". It is a fascinating and totally alien structure that is being explored.

After the preliminary exploration have beon made, bases are set up and exploring parties are sent in various directions. One goes to look at the Cylindrical Sea which circles the shop in the middle. When they reach it, it is found to be ice, rather than water in ite liquid form. Commander Norton, the leador of the expedition is warned by his HQ that violent winds are predicted to begin. At the first sign of a breeze the task force evacuates Rama. As they are leaving, the ice breaks, transforming the Sea to liquid and gale-type winds do begin; and then tho surprise: dawn breaks in the form of some kind of artificial light from the trenches. When tho expedition returns to the interior of Rama after the evacuation, they find it rather Earth-like in appearance wtih light and clouds.

Further explorations reveal many new things but very limited understanding of what is being found. Rama continues to undergo changos all the while and before long life forms are spotted in the way of biots--biological robots whcih appear programmed for various tasks and incapable of independent reasoning, but 'conetructed' of living tissue rather than artificial materials. There are other twiets to the plot, (including a Mercurian or 'Hermian' attempt to destroy Rama with a nuclear missle), too many to go into here. Finally, at the conclusion the crew of the Endoavor leaves Rama. They watch as Rama forms a kind of protective 'cocoon' around itself, lowers itself very near the surface of the sun, and begins drawing energy and matter from the sun. It is apparently refueling itself. Immediately thereafter, Rama takes off in the direction of the Greater Magellanic Cloud. That night, Dr. Perera, a member of the 'Rama Committee' back on Luna, remembers that "tho Ramans do everything in threes." (Pg. 274).

In Rendezvous With Rama, very little beyond the physical facts are revealed to us. This seems quite reasonable given the limited time of the Endeavore crew

Book Review (Con'd)

to sxplore it. The novel ends with Dr. Perera's thought about Ramans doing sverything in threes--(the biots all had three legs or multiples of three, there were three ladders, three light trenches, et al). It is probable that Arthur C. Clarke will be like the Ramans and do things in thrses. Look for two more Raman vsssels to make it into Earth's solar system in the futurs and be explored when they do arrive. Perhaps contact with the Ramans will be made in the third novsl. Rendszvous With Rama can stand alone as a valid portrait of ths exploration of an alisn world but it can also become the starting point for other novels exploring similar worlds. If any future volumes are as carefully done and as detailed, the result will again be excellent science fiction by a master of the genre.

* * * * *

MURD'RING MINISTERS GAME
OPENINGS

DIPLOMACY - There are openings for two games of DIP. GM - Ron Brown. Gamefee: $3.00 no NMR deposit required. Preferenoe list is accepted. Must maintain a subscription to MM. Hanson, Albrecht (Jeff), paid. These games will begin as soon as they are filled.

MACHIAVELLI - There is one opening for MACH. GGM - Jim Broshot. Gamefee: $5.00. No NMR deposit required but must maintain a subscription to MM. Preferenoe list is accepted. This one will begin as soon as it is filled.

* * * * *

MM STANDBY LIST

The following people are listed as current standbys for DIPLOMACY:
David Barker, Keith Mercer, Steve Kerchner, Dave Grabar, John Caruso, Jack Masters, Ron Kelly, Timothy R. Haffey, Denise Tucker, Jeff Albrecht, James R. Williams, Paul Goodrich, & Don Swartz. If anyone wants on or off, please let me know.

I need standby players for SUBMARINE and MACHIAVELLI. If anyone is interested in being a standby for either, please sign up right away!

Standby players are asked to send in orders for a position whose player has NMR'd. If the original player NMRs again the standby's orders are used and he/she immediately takes over the position. This is a great way to gain game experience and/or pick up another game if your bucks are running low. Please help us and yourselves out by signing up as a standby. Thanks.

* * * * *

"And oftentimes, to win us to our
harm,
The instruments of darkness tell us
truths,
Win us with honest trifles, to be-
tray 's
In deepest consequsnce."

MACBETH, I, iii, 123.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

by

Gary Coughlan

"What's in a name?" "That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet," or so Juliet spoke to Romeo in their famous balcony scene (I mean, could this be an authentic MURD'RING MINISTERS article without some allusion to Shakespeare?!) Well there is probably more to a zine's name than most pubbers think (are you listening Dick Martin?)

Think for a minute about how you got involved in postal DIPLOMACY while I tell you of my experience. They may be similar.

While in the army, I got involved in DIPLOMACY. There were always plenty of wargamers around for face-to-face games. Then came good news and bad news. Good news: I got discharged! Bad news: I lost my face-to-face opponents. (In Memphis the rage is RISK). So I was at loose ends.

In a game shop one day, I noticed that DIPLOMACY was now in a much smaller box than my original game had been so I bought it. It was a three-piece folding version rather than my single board which I preferred. But, joy of joys, it mentioned play-by-mail which would allow me to indulge in my favorite game.

I sent off to Avalon Hill to get into a game. I received a list of funny names followed by the names and addresses of gamemasters. I did not realize the "funny names" were zines but I knew which names I liked.

A psychologist might be able to tell something sinister about me from the names I chose first, but apparently I am not alone. My first two choices were, dah-dah, MURD'RING MINISTERS because that name symbolized to me what DIPLOMACY was all about. And RURITANIA which was the mythical kingdom in <u>The Prisoner of Zenda</u> where intrigue and royalty abounded.

MURD'RING MINISTERS arrived one week later, my first zine. It was a mystery. I did not comprehend the meaning of NMR, NBR, GM, stab, standby, or even zine at first.

But I wasn't alone, either in choosing MURD'RING MINISTERS as my first sample zine or in being confused by it. Jennifer King in a recent GRAB DOTS (snicker!) article said: "The first sample zine I got was totally incomprehensible (MM, but it wasn't Ron's fault). But by the time I got five or six, they all made a little more sense."

It was the same way with me. My next three zine requests were ENVOY (from the south), CLAW AND FANG (sounded like a lot of fighting went on), and FLYING DUTCHMAN (another mythical location).

I also requested four new zines which came out about the time I entered the hobby. New zines for a new hobby member was the reason. They were EMHAIN MACHA, VOICE OF DOOM, VOLKERWANDERUNG, and RETALIATION (a really excellent name!)

I think most people, when they first enter the hobby, choose a zine on the basis of its name alone, since they have nothing else to base it on. It would be interesting to see which zines were the first choices of hobby members today. I would wager MURD'RING MINISTERS would be one of the top initial zine requests because of its tantalizing name alone.

A rose may smell as sweet whatever it is called like Juliet said and "A rose is a rose is a rose," as Gertrude Stein asserted but in DIPLOMACY that just doesn't apply. The name is sometimes the whole ballgame.

For example, given the choice, which zine would you sub to first: 1) <u>?????????</u> (an actual name) 2) <u>RETALIATION</u> or 3) <u>GRAB DOTS</u> ? (I know which one I would prefer if I were given a choice!)

However, these three names represent the same zine. GRAB DOTS was previously known as RETALIATION (Yay!!!!) and before that it was quite eloquently entitled as <u>??????????????</u>.

((Con'd next pg.))

WHAT'S IN A NAME? ((Con'd))

My contention is that, without seeing the zine itself, people would be turned on or off by the name and that the names they choose first tell something about their psychological make-up.

But even further the names tell us somethigg about the pubbers who chose them: Dan Palter's PINK DRAGON (most alcoholics only see pink elephants) and John Beamer's BUZZARD'S BREATH (somebody like that would have to play by mail!).

And you have to wonder what kind of guy would name a zine MURD'RING MINISTERS! And Ron Brown sounds so normal over the phone too! But you never can tell! It's all in the name.

((Thanks for the article, Gary. By the way, he has invited all you who feel motivated enough to do so to write in and make any comments you have in response to the above. Any of you who wish to do so should mail your letters to me and I'll publish them in next issue's READERS' RHETORICAL REPLIES.-RB))

* * * * * *

READER'S RHETORICAL REPLIES

((from Timothy R. Haffey))

Dear Ron:

Missed you at the PACIFICON. I did meet up with the likes of Jack Masters (no I didn't hit him), Al Rodriguez, Jim Bumpas, of course. I played until Sunday afternoon when I unfortunately came down with the San Mateo runs or something. Anyway, I had to quit and go home. I really didn't do too well anyway. I only came away with one draw and a couple of 4th places which is not anything.

I hope you will be there for ORIGINS in June '81.

Timothy R. Haffey

((It tears me up to miss out on PACIFICON each year but because of other commitments I must always pass it up. I wish they would hold it some time other than Labor Day weekend. But I am already looking forward to ORIGINS next summer and plan to be there with just about everyone else on the west coast! I'll see you there!))

((from Stephen Lee))

Ron,

The real Super Bowl. . . Houston vs. Pittsburgh early in the divisional playoffs. Tatum takes out Swann and Stallworth but not before Pitts. goes 10-7 in the first half. 3rd Quarter: slow, exchange TDs; 17-14. 4th Quarter: Stabler mounts an impressive drive to the 30 yard line. 3rd down, 7 to go. Cambell drops a swing out and Houston misses a fild goal. Pitt goes on to win the Super Bowl. Stabler and Swann retire.

I had to go to the 'rule book' to figure out the Denmark mess in 79CW. You're right!

Learning & Burning,
Stephen

((Wow, do you have a crystal ball or something? You not only know the scores but the details of future games as well! Only time will tell but there is one thing which could keep the Steelers from repeating again this year: injuries. It has happened before in the past and kept Pitt out of the Super Bowl and it could happen again this year. Especially if you-know-who Bradshaw gets munched then the Steelers ((Con'd))

RRR (Con'd)

might be watching this year's S.B. on TV.))

((from John Caruso))

Dear Ron:

I just felt after reading MM 21 and MM 22 I had to make some kind of statement to correct some of Linsey's remarks. But first, I want to thank you for standing behind me, Ron, and backing my reputation. I'm glad I can call you "FRIEND".

Neither Kathy ((Byrne)) or I subscribe to VOD as of issue 20 and we are no longer on his standby list. While on the list we were never requested to make a standby move and the only reason Linsey put us on his list was to use our names to deceive his subbers into believing all was forgiven.

Kathy and I are not friends with Linsey, ask anyone who attended ORIGINS. I consider a friend someone I can respect and I have lost all respect for Linsey. I will just avoid all contact with him, which is a good piece of advice.

John

((from James R. Williams))

Dear Ron,

I have decided to make your day. I said I wanted to write an article someday for you. Well I didn't, but I did the next best thing. I wrote a poem. I've sort of toyed with the idea for this poem while writing my now famous, "Rhyme of the Month".

I like it anyway; incidently on Mark Berch's letter--I think you've passed the test on handling errors. That early goof in 79CW (which I agreed, I believe, was as much my fault as your wife's) was handled very well. The free game you have given me has even turned out well and 79CW hasn't turned out that bad either. You went out of your way to be fair.

I officially vote for zine as in mine, thine, fine wine, etc. Zine is now an accepted separate word among postal DIP players. It has severed its ties from "Magazine" and proudly proclaims its independence with its own sound. So there!

MURD'RING MINISTERS is a good name for a zine.. I think a zine name should be a reflection of the publisher; yours is. I can't imagine what the pubber of EMHAIN MACHA is like. I don't sub to many, or even know many of the zines but I'd like to see a MALICYOD, (for the jumbled publisher?) or how about MAYAN YOURS? YOURS AND MAYAN?! I give up.

I wish 79HO wasn't infested with NMR's. I think a deposit forfeited by even one NMR is a good idea. Even a small one might be effective. Maybe a more prominent display of the deadline would help. Emblazzoned on Page 1: "The next deadline is _____!!!" I never look at the fine printed due date with each game until after a few weeks. Sometimes deadlines do sneak up.

MM just keeps getting better and better. Anyway, it's time for the aforementioned poem . . .

Regards,
Jim Williams

((OK, OK, I'll print your poem! It's on the next page. I felt such a ~~classic~~ work of art should have its own page. A few responses very quickly to some of the comments: You are in the minority so far in the pronunciation of "'zine", 12 saying 'zine as in keen and 4 saying 'zine as in fine wine. Be sure and see Gary Coughlan's article on pg. 7 on 'zine titles. Your feelings about the NMR deposit are shared by some others. I hope everyone falls out the MM Reader's Poll in this issue and I'll let the readership decide the NMR deposit question. As for the deadline, why would someone notice it on pg. 1 over their game report? But I'll try it. Thanks for writing. The poem immediately follows . . .RB))

POEM
by
Jim Williams

There's a place called Diplomacy World
as wargamers can surely attest
Where flags of seven nations unfurl
as each one begins a like quest
To prove that their countries the best.

-war begins-

As Europe gets ready for war,
(juet prior to 1901),
correepondences are sent by the score.
When this is satisfactorily done,
the game <u>really</u> starts to get fun.

Each leader must choose an alliance,
from all of the offers received.
But he cannot afford blind reliance
for he may very well be deceived.
(You just never know <u>who</u> to believe).

-the fighting begine-

Attacks must be carefully planned,
on those neighbors you've chosen to crush,
or your back door may end up unmanned,
if you begin 1901 in a rush,
to grab every eupply center in touch.

After '01 results are complete,
the battle line will clearly be drawn.
Already, some may be courting defeat,
why, a unit may already be gone!
(Will the Kaiser let <u>me</u> be his pawn?)

More than likely though, all is still well.
The builds gained are all fine and good
To allies you don't need you can tell
"I would help you if only I could"
(and hope that can be understood).

"But the attack from the north is too pressing,
to worry about hitting France now!"
It's a matter of (eimply?) outguessing
that goofball who's taken a vow
to get <u>you</u> before <u>he's</u> taken out.

-moving right along-

The Midgame begins to draw near,
The exchanges slow down to a crawl,
but the stabbing goes into high gear.
One shouldn't trust anybody at all
('cept my friend with the Tennessee drawl).

One by one, great nations are plundered,
as others grow ever more stronger.
It is they, among all who've not blundered
they remain in the game awhile longer
and for eventual wins they now hunger.

-endgame-

From the turmoil of the war now emerge
two or three nations above all the rest
Those making mistakee have been purged
theee remaining are truly the best
Now, they begin the <u>real</u> test.

Do you agree to go in for the draw?
or go after the individual win
(the alliance agreement ain't law)
Just the eame it would seem like a sin
After all, that ally seemed almost like kin.

Whatever is decided, I'll bet you
you'd be thankful for juet getting thie far,
with all of those guys out to get you,
you've avoided any serious harm.
(Maybe the secret is to <u>not</u> NMR!)

((from Gary Coughlan))

Dear Ron,

I don't know if you are ready for all this or not. I just got into a ball of fire and finished the article that I promised you. I hope you like it. As you can see it ie specifically designed to be published in MM and nowhere else!

((Con't on next pg.))

RRR (Coughlan) ((Con't))

My original idea was to do a psychological story on which zines people chose first. MM and RURITANIA were my first choices. But I couldn't get it filled out. Then Jennifer King wrote that article for GRAB DOTS! and Dick changed his zine's name to that awful name and your letter column has been discussing the effect of zine's names eo I put it all together andthis is what I came up with. If you don't like it, weell.....I hope you will. I think it will provoke some letters especially from Dick Martin.

I am also renewing my sub for the rate of $5.50. I know I can sub at a lower rate but you are going to such trouble for ue and I would like to be the first one to sub at the new rate.....status and all that, ha, ha.

Sincerely,
Gary Coughlan

((I liked the article very much and I hope that it does indeed draw a few responses. Thank you for the extra $ on the sub; believe me, every little bit helps. While on this subject, I'd also like to thank Jim Willimas who is sharing the 'Murd'ring Minister of the Month' Award with Stephen Lee this time; both who have donated a bit of extra cash to help defer the coet of the mimeo machine. I really appreciate extraordinary kindnesses from subbers. Thanks again, Gary. - RB))

((from Bob Sergeant))

Dear Ron,

I would certainly like to trade. I have enclosed a sample of SAINT GEORGE. As you can see, I operate on a much more modest scale.

Your zine reminds me a lot of the old LIAISONS DANGEREUSES that Len Lakofka put out. At least before he lost enthusiasm.

I have always meant to see a copy of your zine. Jerry Jones recommends you very highly. However, every time I am in need of a game, you have no openings, and vice versa. I was, however, unaware your title had Shakespearean referents. One doesn't find a lot of literary types playing DIPLOMACY. Lawyers, I believe, are the single largest occupational group. That is only logical, given that DIPLOMACY attracts argumentative types, anyway.

At any rate, herein is No. 55 of SAINT GEORGE AND THE DRAGON. I hope you like it.
Bob

((Thank you for the kind words, Bob. After seeing #55 and now more recently #56 of ST. GEORGE, yes, I like it very much. Your comment about lawyers ie interesting. While I've never thought of them as the largest singleoccupational group, you well be right on that. I know I've come across several since I've been involved in the hobby. I guess it would be a good hobby to pratice your ability to persuade people to see things your way, as that is what being a good lawyer is all about. Pleaee note that there are now openings if you are still seeking a game. Thanks again - RB))

((from Michael Mills))

Dear Ron,

First of all, thank you for the encouragement for EM in your zine, MM, and in your letter. Yes, your (bad grammar) right. It's always good to hear an encouraging word.

Oh yes, I know that Brux did the BB fake, but since he had adked that the accusing finger point at Berch for awhile I thought it'd be fun. But I guess that everyone knows ole Brucie did it.

((Con't next pg.))

RRR (Mills) ((Con't))

Oh about sending away for British zine samples. I heard about this ZINE BANK run by Alan Parr from John Marsden. It is for UK Dippers. They send an SASE to Alan and he stuffs it with zines for them. Pubbers send samples to Alan to distribute for them. In my case an SASE was out of the question so I sent a POUND NOTE to Alan saying do your best. Since the pound was used for the container, and postage, whcih I said could be anything--sea mail--I got about 15 UK zines.

Alan's address is: 6 Longfield Gardens, Tring, Hers, UK. If you want to phone him ring up 044282 4173, though that may be overdoing it.

And you bought yourself a new MIMEO! Begorrah! $1000! But I compliment you on your decision to go mimeo, when many are turning to the easy xerox/photoffset style.

Well, that's all from this end. Let me know if you have success on getting those UK zines.

Best,
Mike

((I still haven't gotten around to getting it sent off but I am going to one of these days. Could you tell me if an International Money Order for a certain amount in US currency would work? When I've inquired about getting a money order in British currency no one seems to know how to do it. As for the decision to buy the Mimeo--I wanted a good type quality for MM but photoffset costs so mcuh! In the long run the Mimeo will be more reasonablc, even though it is a lot to shell out at one time. But I'm pleased with the quality. I hope everyone else is, too. 'Ole Brucie' has been busy lately, hasn't he? I wonder what his next scheme will be? Well, Bruce? Thanks for writing, Mike.--RB))

* * * * *

THE GAMES!

1979HN WINTER 1906 I-G DRAW PROPOSAL FAILS! SEASONS SEPARATE AT PLAYERS' REQUEST!
England- NRR! GM removes A Mos-r-OTB,F Nth,F Nwg, F Iri Italy- builds F NAP
France- F Iri-r-MID,builds F MAR Turkey- no adj
Germany- F Nth-r-DEN,A Bud-r-VIE,builds A KIE,A BER
There is a proposal for an I-G draw and one for an I-G-F draw. Please vote with Spring 1907 orders, must be unanimous to pass, no vote received = 'yes' vote.
S'07 due 10/17/80.
1979HN Press-
EASTERN SIBERIA: to England and France- I told you so!

* * * * *

1979G WINTER 1908 SEASONS SEPARATE AT PLAYERS' REQUEST!
England- no adj Italy-no adj
Germany- A Mun-r-KIE,removes A Lvn Russia- builds A WAR,A MOS,declines one build
Spring 1909 due 10/17/80.
1979G Press-
LONDON: Oh no! It looks like I-R will win. But, I am <u>very</u> suspicious about the Russian NMR. He called me the night before to set up an attack on Germany. I told him no. Then, he NMR's and gets 3 Italian builds. Excellent move. Wanna bet Al Rodriguez is not the new Russian Player?
KIEL: Frenchmen in Munich!

* * * * *

EDITOR'S NOTE: In MM games in order for seasons to separate, at least two players must request it. Otherwise seasons are always combined after 1901.

1979CW SUMMER 1907 France- F Kie-r-BAL ((Turkey has F RUM that was omitted last time))
1979CW FALL 1907 CENTERS TRADE HANDS ALL OVER THE BOARD AS FRANCE SURGES ON!

England (Garuso): F Swe-s-French F Nth-Den/d/-r-Ska,OTB.
France (Lee): A Edi-LPL; F Yor-EDI; F NTH-Den; F BAL-Ber; F Hel-KIE; A HOL-s-F Hel-Kie; F ENG-Nth; A Bur-MUN; A RUH-s-A Bur-Mun; A PIE-Tya.
Germany (Barker)*: NMR! A ROM; A BER; A Mun/d/-r-Sil,Boh,OTB; F Kie/a/.
Italy (Williams): A BUD-s-Russian A Gal-Rum; F Aeg-BUL(sc); A SER-s-F Aeg-Bul(sc); F GRE-s-F Aeg-Bul(sc); F ION-H; A Tri-VIE.
Russia (Haehnel): A Gal-RUM; A StP-LVN; F DEN-s-F Bot-Swe; A NWY-s-F Bot-Swe; F Bot-SWE.
Turkey (Schilling): F Rum-s-F Bul(ec)/d/-r-Sev,Bla,OTB; F Bul(ec)-s-F Rum/d/-r-Bla,OTB; F Eas-AEG; F CON-s-F Eas-Aeg; F SMY-s-F Eas-Aeg; A War-MOS; A TYA-s-French A Bur-Mun.

Winter 1907 AND Spring 1908 due 10/17/80. There is a call for a concession to France. Vote with next orders. Must be unanimous to pass, not vote = 'yes' vote.
*Would Ron Kelly, 6038 Richmond Hwy #314, Alexandria, VA 22303 please submit standby orders for Germany?

1979CW 1907 Supply Center Chart

England- ~~Lpl~~	(0)	OUT
France- Home,Spa,Por,Bel,Hol,Lon,Edi,Kie,MUN,LPL	(12)	+2
Germany- Ber,~~Mun~~,~~Den~~,Ven,ROM	(3)	0
Italy- ~~Rom~~,Nap,Tun,Tri,Gre,Bud,VIE,BUL	(7)	+1
Russia- StP,War,Swe,~~Vie~~,Nwy,RUM,DEN	(6)	+1
Turkey- Home,~~Bul~~,Sev,~~Ser~~,~~Kun~~,Mos	(5)	-2

1979CW Press-

NAPLES: Pope George Ringo's Rhyme of the Month-

True, Rome has been taken
but I am not shaken.
The people of Rome
will not be forsaken.

The Pope will return
and his people now yearn
that the Germans leave quickly
And hopefully learn,

That their home is not here
Where the air is still pure.
But in stinkholes like Munich
where residents fear,

That their mad leader Barker
will go plum off his rocker
and the doom over Deutchland
will grow ever more darker.

George Ringo will now chance
that with help from good France
we will jump on the Germans
and stop their advance.....for good.

ENG-GER: Fool. Things could have been different if you had common sense. Guess that's why France is winning and you're losing. Tell me, how much did you lie to the others so far?
ST.PETE: You had it Turkey and you blew it. Just like your Austrian friend Count Von Dork.
ENG-TUR: You can thank Germany for your lack of help.
ENG-FRANCE: As I promised. I delivered, or at least attempted to.

* * * * *

"Be not afraid of greatness: some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them."

TWELFTH-NIGHT, v, II, 159.

1978II FALL 1910 I-A DRAW FAILS TO THE SURPRISE OF NONE! TWO MORE PROPOSED!

Austria (Kelly): A Rum-s-English A Mos-Sev/d/-r-Bud,OTB.

England (Michalski): A MOS-Sev; A STP-Mos; A Nwy-SWE; F NWG-H; F NAT-H; F MID-H; F Ion-ALB; F TUN-Ion; F WES-Tun; F Tyr-NAP; A ROM-s-F Tys-Nap; F Lyo-TYS.

Germany (Pilant): A War-UKR; A GAL-s-A War-Ukr; A BOH-Gal; A SIL-s-A Boh-Gal; A Tya-TRI; A VEN-s-A Tya-Tri; A VIE-s-A Tya-Tri; A PIE-s-A Ven; F Bal-H/NSU/.

Italy (Martin): F Tri-Adr/a/.

Turkey (Rodriguez): ~~XXXXX~~ A Ukr-s-A Sev/a/; A SEV-s-A Ukr; A Bul-RUM; A SER-s-A Bul-Rum; F Apu-ION; F EAS-s-F Apu-Ion; F ADR-s-F Apu-Ion; F Aeg-GRE.

There are proposals for both a E-G-T draw and a E-G draw. Please vote with your next orders. Must be unanimous to pass, no vote = 'yes' vote, if both pass one with the most countries takes priority.

Winter 1910 AND Spring 1911 due 10/17/80.

1978II 1910 Supply Center Chart

Austria- Bud.....(1) 0
England- Home,Bel,Nwy,StP,Bre,Spa,Tun,Por,Rom,Nap,Mos,SWE.....(14)+2
Germany- Home,Den,Hol,~~Swe~~,Par,Mar,War,Ven,Vie,TRI.....(11)+3 (3 short)
Italy- ~~Tri~~.....(0) OUT
Turkey- Home,Bul,Rum,Sev,Gre,Ser.....(8) +1 (1 short)

1978II Press-

BERLIN: To all and sundry, my apologies for missing. I'm still in.

TRIESTE-GM: Stevie Nicks!? Christine McVie is better anyway. Serves you right!

GM-TRIESTE: Well, to each his own. But as a parting remark to your taste in ladies--it's like your erstwhile F Tri - all wet!

ITALY-TURKEY: It looks like the end is near, my son. Why don't we give the game to Austria?

* * * * *

1979CF WINTER 1907 NEW POPE ENACTS DRAFT ACT! THREE NEW ITALIAN ARMIES ARE RAISED!

Austria- A Gal-r-VIE,builds A TRI Russia- noadj
Germany- builds F KIE, A BER Turkey- no adj
Italy- builds A ROM,A VEN,A NAP

1979CF SPRING 1908 RUSSIA NO LONGER RUSSIAN AS GERMANS SWARM!

Austria (Palter): A Bud-GAL; A RUM-s-A Bud-Gal; A Tya-BOH; A VIE-s-A Tya-Boh; A TRI-s-A Vie; F BUL(sc)-H.

Germany (Linsey): F Kie-HOL; F ENG-Mid; A Lpl-WAL; F Edi-CLY; F Nwy-NTH; A Pic-PAR; A Bur-GAS; A MUN-Bur; A BER-Mun; A SIL-Boh; A Gal-s-A Sil-Boh/d/-r-War,OTB; A War-UKR; A Mos-SEV; A StP-MOS.

Italy (Williams): A Con-ANK; F Smy-CON; F Aeg-ION; A VEN-H; A ROM-s-A Ven; A Nap-SPA; F TYS & F WES-c-A Nap-Spa; A MAR-Bur; A BRE-H; F MID-s-A Bre.

Russia)(Mercer): A Sev-Mos/d/-r-Arm,OTB.

Turkey (Tucker): F BLA-s-German A Mos-Sev.

Fall 1908 due 10/17/80. There is a proposal for a G-A-I draw. Vote with next orders, must be unanimous to pass, no vote = 'yes' vote.

1979CF Press-

RUSSIA-GERMANY: In response to your recent request to the Czar, His Most Imperialness wishes to send you the following message: "Stuff it!!! We may not stop you but we can slow you down."

More 79CF Press on next page

1979CF Press ((Con'd))

BERLIN-ANKARA: Atta girl! We work well together, you and me. I know another game we can play. . . but it has to be played fact-to-face!
BERLIN-ROME: Paul, pal, you pooped out on me just as I was lookin' for a good battle!
BERLIN-VIENNA: Anybody home? May I come in?
BERLIN-SEVASTOPOL: Cooperate and ye shall live! Resist and it's all over!

* * * * *

1979AN SUMMER 1908 England- A War-r-LVN; Turkey- A Rom-r-TUS.
1979AN FALL 1908 AUSTRIA TAKES WIN!! CHALK ONE UP FOR CARSON!!

Austria (Carson): A MOS-StP; A SEV-Mos; A UKR-s-A War; A WAR-H; A CAL-s-A War; A BOH-s-A Mun; A Mun-H/d/-r-Tya,OTB; A VEN-H; F TRI-s-A Ven; A Mar-SPA; A PIE-Mar; A ROM-H; F NAP-s-A Rom; F Alb-ION.
England (Haffey): A Nwy-STP; A LVN-s-A Nwy-StP; F Nwg-NTH; F Cly-LPL; F Eng-MID.
France (Palter): A Bre-GAS; A BUR-Mar; F Mid-Spa/amb/-/d/-r-Por,Iri,Bre,Wes, NAf,OTB.
Germany (Sulsberger): A Sil-MUN; A KIE-s-A Sil-Mun; A BER-s-A Sil-Mun; A PRU-s-English A Lvn; A Bel-RUH; F Nth-ENG; F NAT-s-English F Eng-Mid.
Italy (Grabar): F TYS-c-Turkish A Tus-Rom/NSO/.
Turkey (Masters): A TUS-Tun/imp/; F ADR-Ven.

1979AN 1908 Supply Center Chart

Austria- Home,Gre,Con,Bul,Rum,Ank,Sev,Smy,~~Mun~~,Nap,Mar,Mos,Ven,ROM,WAR,SER,SPA..(18)WINS!)		
England- Lon,Nwy,StP,Lpl,~~War~~	(4)	-1
France- ~~Spa~~,Por,Par,Bre	(3)	0
Germany- Ber,Kie,Den,Hol,Swe,Edi,Bel,MUN	(8)	+1
Italy- Tun	(1)	0
Turkey- ~~Ser~~,~~Ron~~	(0)	OUT

1979AN Press-
VIENNA-THE DISINTEGRATING TURKISH FORCES AND THEIR COMMANDER:
Farewell to a brave and gallant foe and friend.

* * * * *

1979HO SUMMER 1905 England- F Kie-r-HEL,F Nwy-r-SKA.
1979HO FALL 1905 AUSTRIA, FRANCE, AND RUSSIA CONTINUE TO GROW WHILE THE REST SHRINK!

Austria (Tucker):COA* A Apu-NAP; A ROM-s-A Apu-Nap; A Ser-GRE; F ALB-s-A Ser-Gre; A Bud-SER; A TRI-s-A Bud-Ser.
England (Mercer): A LPL-H; F SKA-Nwy; F NWC-s-F Ska-Nwy; F DEN-Kie; F NTH-s-F Hel-Hol/d/-r-Yor,Edi,OTB; F HEL-Hol.
France (Williams): F LYO-Tys; F Wes-TUN; F IRI-Lpl; F Eng-NTH; F LON-s-F Eng-Nth; A HOL-s-A Kie; A BEL-s-A Hol; A KIE-H; A RUH-s-A Kie.
Germany (Haffey): F BER-Kie.
Italy (Barker): NMR! F TYS-H.
Russia (Coughlan): A ARM-Smy; F RUM-Bul(ec); A CAL-Rum; A SEV-s-A Cal-Rum; F NWY-s-French F Eng-Nth; A STP-s-F Nwy.
Turkey (Kuszynski): F Bla-ANK; A Cre-Smy/a/; F AEG-c-A Cre-Smy; A BUL-H.

Winter 1906 AND Spring 1906 due 10/17/80. There is a call for a F-R-A draw. Vote with your next orders, must be unanimous to pass, no vote = 'yes' vote.
*COA=Denise Tucker, 248B Wolpers Hall, UMC, Columbia, MO 65211.
1979HO 1905 Supply Center Chart and Press on next page.

* * * * *

"This fellow is wise enouth to play the fool,
And to do that well craves a kind of wit." TWELFTH-NIGHT, III, i, 68.

1979HO 1905 Supply Center Chart

Austria- Home,Ser,Ven,Rom,NAP,CRE.....(8)+2
England- ~~Lon~~,Lpl,Edi,Den,~~Kie~~,~~Nwy~~,.....(3)-3
France- Home,Spa,Por,Bel,Mun,Tun,Hol,KIE,LON.....(11)+2
Germany- Ber.....(1) 0
Italy- ~~Nap~~.....(0) OUT
Russia- Home,Rum,Swe,NWY.....(7)+1
Turkey- Home,Bul,~~Gre~~.....(4)+1 (one short)

1979HO Press-

RUSSIA-ITALY: Pity. When someone finally appreciates me for what I really am, they get blown out of the water! Some are now saying, "T'was Beauty that killed the Beast." Well, she certainly did her share and you certainly were a beast but both of us know that there were other reasons for Italy's total, and completely avoidable, collapse.

FRANCE-ITALY: Tsk, tsk, David! We musn't lose our little heads just because we've been disgraced and humiliated. You are right though, about my success not being very deserved. After all, the only thing I did was send my moves in before the deadline. Only a fool would do otherwise, right?

I do pity you Dave. I think most players are in the hobby for fun. I think your childish reaction to your lack of success shows that perhaps you should try something else. You have no one to blame for your failure but yourself, yet you lash out profanities and cry like a baby because Austria and I didn't do things your way.

Incidently Dave, your move in 1979CW of suiciding out against me only reinforces my low opinion of you as a player, and will not stop me from finishing ahead of you there. I suppose, though, that I'll have to endure your tawdry press in <u>that</u> game for awhile. For this game at least, I bid you adieu.

BERLIN: I am gratified over the unanimous concern over the continued welfare of Germany. Why don't you all just leave me alone and let me survive, I can't stand all these decisions, I don't know where to go, I don't know what to do. Please, please, just leave me alone.

VIENNA-?: Aw Davy! Did big bad Austria hurt your whittle bitty feelings. Golly gee wilikers, Davy. Just think, if you hadn't always had your head you-know-where you might have seen us coming.

ST.PETE-PARIS: I might have gone to "Cay Paree" but it was to see the Paris showgirls at the Follies. I love French culture. (Take it anyway you want).

FRANCE-AUSTRIA: Oops! I lost your COA. Sorry I'll be back in touch soon.

VIENNA-ST.PETE: Since when have you had class? How mush did it cost? I want some too.

FRANCE-RUSSIA: I agree with Dave on one other point. You <u>do</u> have class. If Barker thinks <u>that</u>, he can't be <u>all</u> bad.

ST.PETERSBURG: Without the epidemic of spreading civil disorder in Europe, no Great Power would be where it is today. But, without the "exploitation of geographical proximity", no Great Power would have been where it was yesterday, say about Fall, 1901, either. And all's fair in love and war.

VIENNA-PARIS: Say, Puff, are you a dragon?

FRANCE-GERMANY: I hope you didn't decide to side with England. Civil Disorder would be a much better fate than that.

ST.PETE-BUDAPEST: The Tsar can play the Empress's game also. How's this? Ne sont pas couverts les gegats dus aux accidents ou a une mauvais utilisation de l'appareil.

MOSCOW: So I lied. It's not in the press.

* * * * *

"As he was valiant, I honor him; but
as he was ambitious, I slew him." JULIUS CAESAR, III, ii, 27.

And now, MURD'RING MINISTERS proudly(?) presents another installment by Dan Kuszynski of. . .

BIG TIMER MAGAZINE

About three weeks ago I came upon an idea for a DIPLOMACY variant and called Al Rodriguez to get his views on the idea and between the two of us we created what looks to be a very good variant. When the game was finally put together we explained it to Ron Brown and he came up with the perfect name for the new variant.

BIG TIMER MAGAZINE is proud to present "Vacation Diplomacy".

Vacation Diplomacy uses the standard DIPLOMACY rules and pieces plus a few new rules and a new starting set-up.

Each country begins the game with the original set-up plus one additional unti placed as follows; Austria- A fleet begins on the island between the Gulf of Bothnia and the Baltic. England has A Albania. France has A Calicia. Italy has F Iceland. Russia has a fleet on the island between the Gulf of Lyon and the W.Med. Turkey has A Switzerland. Germany has F Crete. These units begin the game "on vacation" so none of these units need a supply center to sustain it. The units may only be eliminated when it has no retreat or by any new rules.

There are only two other changes to the original game. The game ends after 10 years and before the first turn and at each Winter of each year all players receive a variant card to be played if and whenever he wants during the following year. The card must be played during the year or it is forfeited when a new card is received the following Winter. There is only one of each card and all cards are listed before the game begins so players may check them off as they are played. The umpire keeps secret all cards out until they are played and should a player refuse to play his card he may not play it in following years but it also is not revealed to the other players until after the game or as a result of another card.

To clarify a few points, the only units that do not need a supporting supply center are the units that begin the game in a province without a supply center. It would be wise to mark the unit somehow. Some popular ways here are Al Rodriguez's pinto beans armies where a pinto bean is used instead of the unit; Ron Brown rubs body oil on his (unit); BlackJack Masters keeps his unit off the board and traces its movement on a separate sheet of paper and shows it after the game;or as Dave "the Machine" Grabar does by refusing to ever move it so it remains where he can find it. In addition if a unit begins in a province that is normally impassible, that province is still impassible one the unti leaves such as Switzerland, Iceland, etc.

The Variant Cards:

1. One free support for a move. 2. two free supports for one move for one unit. 3. Three free supports for one move for one unit. 4. One convoy without fleet. 5. double convoy without fleets. 6. Triple convoy without fleets. 7. Order one English unit. 8. Order one Austrian unit. 9. Order one Russian unit. 10. Order one Italian unit. 11. Order one French unit. 12. Order one Turkish unit. 13. Order one German unit. 14. Order two units of your choice. 15. Order three units of your choice. 16. Remove England's free unit. 17. Remove Italy's free unit. 18. Remove Austria's free unit. 19. Remove France's free unit. 20. Remove Germany's free unit. 21. Remove Russia's free unit. 22. Remove Turkey's free unit. 23. Convert any fleet on board to an army. 24. Convert any coastal army to a fleet. 25. Free passage through Switzerland for a full year. 26. Force any one country to hold in place. 27. Move any of your armies two provinces. 28. Move any of your fleets two areas. 29. Cancel any card or prevent player from playing card. 30. All of a player's moves succeed. 31. Force any unit

((Con'd next pg.))

BIG TIMER MAGAZINE (Con'd)

into CD for game. 32. Make any province on board impassible for the game (non-supply center). 33. Make one sea zine impassible for the year. 34. Convert any unit to your country for one year. 35. Any one friendly unit may move on land and sea for rest of game. 36. Deny any one country one build. 37. Allow building in any controlled center for rest of game. 38. Player moves after seeing all others' moves. 39. Create another free unit where your original free unit began. 40. Force any one unit to appear back at a home center of choice. 41. All English units retreated are annihiated. 42. As 41 but Russian. 43. As 41 but Italian. 44. As 41 but Turkish. 45. As 41 but Austrian. 46. As 41 but French. 47. As 41 but German. 48. Force any Austrian unit into CD for game. 49. As 48 but English. 50. As 48 but Russian. 51. As 48 but Turkish. 52. As 48 but Italian. 53. As 48 but French. 54. As 48 but German. 55. Convert any one Austrian unit to your own. 56. As 55 but English. 57. As 55 but Russian. 58. As 55 but Turkish. 59. As 55 but French. 60. As 55 but Italian. 61. As 55 but German. 62. Deny Austria one build. 63. Deny England one build. 64. Deny Russia one build. 65. Deny France one build. 66. Deny Turkey one build. 67. Deny Italy one build. 68. Deny Germany one build. 69. All attacks against you fail. 70. Jump over one piece. 71. Force any one player to play a card he previously refused to play. 72. Nothing card. 73. Hop over any unit and remove it.

Needless to say, this game is wide open and each player has a wide variety of Diplomatic subjects.

Last month only one person was able to break my code and no it wasn't Jim Bumpas. Dave "the Machine" Grabar felt it meant 666 which is close enough so he is the only one receiving this issue. If you are not Dave Grabar please return this article.

Ron is considering carrying a game of Vacation Diplomacy so write him and receive complimentary pinto beans from Al convertable to your DIPLOMACY game for Vacation Diplomacy.

Dan Kuszynski

* * * * *

EVEN STILL MORE STUFF ((Con'd from pg. 2))

Those of you who receive Black Jack Masters' zine BLACK FROG have probably noticed that you are getting an issue on an almost weekly basis! BF #13 contains a hot item: "The Linsey-McKibbin-Rodriguez" letters." In this 20 page, digest sized issue, Jack prints for all to read the exchange of letter in a two man game of DIPLOMACY between Linsey and McKibbin, GM'd by Rodriguez. It's pretty funny (and entirely fictional) and available to you for $2.00 from Black Jack Masters, 25711 No. Vista Fwys. Dr., Valencia, CA 91355.

Some new DIPLOMACY zines making their appearance are:
JUST AMONG FRIENDS, Al Pearson, Route 1, Box 17785 Kearneysville, W.VA 25430.
TORPEDO, Bernard Sampson, 123 Sixth St., Middlesex, NJ 08846.
LONE STAR DIPLOMAT, Mike Conner, 3214 Beverly Rd., Austin, TX 78703.

For those of you who care about the Bernie Oaklyn business, Mark Berch states in DIPLOMACY DIGEST #38, ". . . on three GMs who have allowed Bernie to play: Jim Benes has issued a strong warning about FLD to his readers. Sergeant is barring him from future games, and Steve McLendon has expelled him from all his present games for deception of the GM."

((Con't somewhere later))

MURD'RING MINISTERS FIRST READERS' POLL

((Please use this form to check off the following items of interest, preference, etc. and return with your next orders, letters, or even all by itself! Please? I thank you, the rest of the subscribers thank you, and even Al thanks you (and he's never thanked anyone before!) - RB))

I. Zine Content

A) Games-

1. MM/TZ currently has 10 DIPLOMACY games running in its pages. This number is: (Circle one)
   a. too many b. not enough c. just right
2. Suggest the ideal number of games considering the space available (12 pgs.): _____
3. Would you prefer the game results to be sent only to the players in those games as inserts?
   Yes_____ No_____
4. Do you enjoy seeing game results of games where you are not a player?
   Yes_____ No_____
5. Would you like to see any of the following games in MM/TZ:

   _____just regular DIP _____DIP variants _____Wargames (such as SUBMARINE, WS&IM,etc.)
6. If you checked the last one in 5. above, what would you specifically like to see offered?

   _____

B) Articles/Non-game Material

1. Please rate the following types of articles on a scale of 1-10 with 10 being the tops:

   Humor_____; Strategy/Tactics_____; MM Player Ratings_____; Tornament Rating Systems_____; Hobby Politics_____; Sci-Fi/Fantasy Book Reviews_____; Sci-Fi/Fantasy Games_____; Other conventional wargames_____; Quizes_____; FTF DipCon Reports_____; Misc. DIPLOMACY-related stuff (like Coughlan's article in this issue)_____; Anything else (specify)_____.
2. What is your favorite feature in MM/TZ? (Rate from 1-10).

   STUFF_____; READERS' RHETORICAL REPLIES_____; D&D Column_____; Games_____; Editorials_____; BIG TIMER MAGAZINE_____; Other (specify)_____

II. Good vs. Bad

A) Tell in a short answer what you enjoy or like the most about MM/TZ:

_____

_____

_____

MM Reader Poll (Con'd)

B) Tell in a short answer what you loathe or dislike the most about MM/TZ:

_____

_____

_____

III. Issue Size

A) The normal sized issue of MM/TZ is 12 pages. However, MM/TZ has been averaging more like 16-18 recently. Financial considerations may restrict the size back to a 12 page average down the line. How do you rate the concept of double-issues (double-priced for double sized--example: if an issue is 24+ pages it would count as two issues on your sub):

_____ 1. I think it would be worth using my subscription up faster for twice the readin material.

_____ 2. I think an issue should only count as one issue against my subscription no matter what size it is.

(Please check one).

B) What do you feel is the ideal size (number of pages) for MM/TZ given the format used?

_____

C) Would you prefer bi-weekly issues of MM/TZ--one containing all the game results and the other all reading material?

_____ 1. I prefer all in one monthly issue.

_____ 2. I prefer bi-weekly issues.

IV. Paper

A) do you prefer one color paper over another? If so, what?_____

V. Miscellaneous

A) How many DIPLOMACY zines do you receive? _____

B) How many DIPLOMACY games are you currently playing? _____

C) Do you think an NMR deposit should be required in an effort to discourage NMRs?

_____(yes or no)

D) If you answered 'yes' to #3 above, how much? _____

E) How do you think of your ability as a player?

Excellent_____ Good_____ Moderate_____ Fair_____ Poor_____

* * * * *

Please understand that you don't have to put your name on this when you send it back unless you want to, I won't pay any attention to it anyway. I just want the forms so I can tabulate them and see if I can draw any conclusions from them that will help form future publishing policy around here. You don't have to fill out the form entirely; only fill out answers to what you want to. Please make this survey a success and return this thing filled out with your next orders. Please? Thank you. You're a wonderful human being!

TWILIGHT ZINE #6

Well we are missing our usual TZ banner because I do not know how to draw on these funny blue mimeograph masters. The missing banner is a blessing since TZ will only occupy two pages. No doubt about it! I am pressed for room yet I have plenty to write about: Pacificion, the Saddle Rack, the Linsey, McKibbin, Rodriguez letters, Nuclear War, Cosmic Encounters, Pigskin Picks, Colonia, my hobby burnout, Ron Brown robbing a liquor store etc. In an effort to conserve space we best get on to the games.....

1980 AS WINTER 1902

TAKE A BREAK GUYS! SEASONS ARE SEPARATED BY POPULAR DEMAND

Austria(David Wildman-COA-180 Claremont Ave #21, NY,NY 10027: Build A Vie
England(Charles Miller): Build F Lon
France(Dave Grabar): even
Germany(Mark Kraft): Build A Ber, A Kie
Italy(~~Mark~~ Matt McKibbin): Build A Rom, F Nap
Russia(Jeff Albrecht): Remove F Arm, F Swe
Turkey(Jerome Dunn): even

PRESS:

THE FIELD: Spring 1903 due 1:00 PM on 10/17/80. I have Spring 03 orders on file for all but Jerome Dunn. Note GM COA at close.

1980 CU Spring 02

Austria(Ralph McKnight): A Ukr-SEV, A Ser-TRI, F Gre-ION, A Vie-BOH
A Bud-GAL
England(Donald Swartz): F Lon-NTH, F Lvp-IRI, F ENg-S-A Bel-Pic, FNWY-H
A Bel-PIC
France(Dan Kuszynski): A Mar-BUR A PAR-S-A Mar-Bur, A Pic-BRE,
F SPA(sc)-Wes
Germany(Anthony Stark): A Bur-GAS, A Hol-RUH, F DEN-H
Italy(Paul Goodrich): A Pie-MAR, A Ven-~~PIE~~PIE, F TUN-Wes, F Nap-TYS
Russia(Hector Roybal): A Lvn-S-A War (NSU), F SWE-H, A War-UKR, F Sev-H/a/,
~~A/Mos//~~ A MOS-S-A Sev
Turkey(James Dunn-COA-308 East 33st, Baltimore MD 21218): A Ank-ARM
F Smy-AEG, A RUM-S-AUS. A Ukr-Sev, A Bul-CON,
F BLA-~~A~~ S-AUS. A Ukr-Sev.

PRESS:

Berlin: Fear not, world! The German Regime lives on. These miscues happen, after all. I'm still here, if anyone would like to lend a hand...
Rome-Vienna: I told you-I keep moving west and you keep moving east.
THE FIELD: Fall 1902 due 1:00 PM on 10/17/80. Note GM COA at close.

1980 CT FALL 1902

Austria(Rick Ragsdale): A FUM-H, A Bul-SYR, A Bud-SER, F AEG-C-A Bul-Syr
England(George Cunningham): F Nwy-STP, A Stp-MOS, F NTH-S-GER. F Kie-Den
(NSO) F Bel-H
France(Dave Perlmutter): F Mid-POR, A PIC-Bur, A BUR-Mun, A MAR-H
Germany(Ron Kelly): A Mun-SIL, A RUH-Mun, A HOL-Ruh,F Swe-DEN, F KIE-S-F
Swe-Den
Italy(Al Giddings) A Ven-PIE, A TUN-H, F EAS-C-AUS. A Bul-Syr, F Tus-LYO
F Tys-ION

Russia(John Lesch-COA-8017 /W. ROBSON ST. TAMPA, FL. 33615): A Ukr-SEV, F Den-S-ENG F Nwy-Swe(NSO) /d/-r-Skg,Bal A Fin-S-ENG F Nwy-Swe (NSO), F BLA-~~CON~~ Con
Turkey(Rod Fielding): F CON-S-A Arm-Smy, F ANK-S-F Con, A Arm-SMY

S
SUPPLY CENTER CHART 1902

Austria: Ven, Bud, Bul, Gre, RUM, SER-6- builds 2
England: Home, Nwy, BEL, STP, MOS-7- builds 3
France: Home, Spa, POR-5- Builds 1
Germany: Home, Swe, Hol, DEN-6- builds 1
Italy: Home, Tun, Tri-5- ~~[illegible]~~ even
Russia: War, Sev, ~~MOS~~, ~~STP~~-2- remove 2
Turkey: Home-3- even

PRESS

Roma-Europe: The Pope will be converting heathens in South Africia from Sept 15-25. All correspondence will be answered upon his return. Even yours "Davie-baby".
Paris: Cunningham is a Democrat and has an ~~I/A~~ I.Q above room temperature. That's a contradiction in terms is'nt it?
Mar: I hate Al Giddings! Please god let him MIR. Please God let him MIR.
Parisian News Service: The Voice of The Frogs: Uh, look guys. If A/I are not good allys then Warren G. Harding was a saint. Get those creeps. Go sik 'em fido!
~~Z~~ Iceland-Rome: You can take your offer of friendship and stuff it.
Morocco-French Admiralty: Our coaling stations are at your Lordship's disposal.
Iceland-Ankara: Regret last message so overdue; it was first drafted in Italian and the necessary re-translation caused delay.
Turkey: Turkey announces the withdrawal of communications facilities ~~of~~ previously accorded Italy and Austria, pending their vacation of her sovereigh seas.
London-World: The King announces new office hours. He may now be ~~n~~ reached from 6PM-11:30 PM EST. His number is (802) 658-4100 #263.
London-World: Many thanks to the kind people who wrote me letters. May a plague strike all those who failed to write.
Rome- ~~M~~Moscow: What are the English doing in St. Pete? Probably the ~~same~~ same thing the Russians are doing in Denmark, or are you still in Denmark?
Rome-Smyrna: Pope Boniface XXIII is planning on remaining in Smyrna after Italian occupation is established. Any printable suggestions?
Rome-Paris: "Such a wonderful day in the neighborhood...." Even Mr. Rodgers could not have asked for more!
THE FIELD: Winter 1902 and Spring 1903 due 1:00 PM on 10/17/80. In order to separate seasons I must receive ~~two~~ two request. A special thanks to Ron Kelly for taking the German position. Note GM COA at close.

****

TZ on ~~two~~ two pages! I did not think ~~it~~ it was possible. ~~B~~ Good thing we h had a separation in 80AS otherwise I would ~~n~~ have had to cut down on some of the Press in 80 CT. Those guys have a regular press war going on.
The biggest news is my change of address. ALL PLAYERS PLEASE NOTE MY COA: ALFRED RODRIGHES 2112 ROOSEVELT BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304.
The address you have been sending orders to is my parents house. I have not lived there for a few years but have not changed my mailing address because of frequent moves and the hassles with COA's.

Hope all you folks have a nice month and enjoy the new mimeo. Bye.

YET EVEN STILL MORE STUFF ((This is the somewhere later))

Well, for those of you who are like me and care about the LEEDER POLL results beyond the top ten; the final rankings for the top 30 zines (you didn't expect me to list them all did you?) are:

1. FOL SI FIE
2. VOLKERWANDERUNG
3. THE NATIONAL
4. DIPLOMACY WORLD
5. EMHAIN MACHA
5. POLITICIAN
7. WHY ME?
8. BRUTUS BULLETIN
9. THE DRAGON & THE LAMB
10. VOICE OF DOOM
11. EVERYTHING
12. GHEESEGAKE
13. DIPLOMAGY DIGEST
14. MURD'RING MINISTERS
15. ST. GEORGE & THE DRAGON
16. RUNESTONE
17. EGGNOG
17. ENVOY
19. GLAW & FANG
20. THE DOGS OF WAR
21. RETALIATION
22. INFIDEL
23. PASSCHENDAELE
24. TER-RAN
25. THE SHOGUN'S SWORD
26. TORONTO TELEGRAM
27. RURITANIA
28. FLYING DUTCHMAN
29. BUSHWACKER
29. BOAST

See last issue's RRR for comments on the poll, etc. from John Michalski and myself. One final note -- although TWILIGHT ZINE didn't get enough votes to put in into the main list, Al did receive a rating of 7.33 on TZ, edging out MM which got 7.05! Gurses! I'll never hear the end of this!

By the way, John Leeder, publisher of RUNESTONE now has DIPLOMACY openings. John is right around issue number 300 or so and sounds very enthusiastic about continuing the publication of RUNESTONE. John's subscription rate is 2¢/page plus potage with a $5.00 gamefee. These openings will fill fast.

Did you know that you can light a fart on fire if you hold a match to the proper place? I didn't either until Al told me about it the other day. It seems that he was "farting around" one day and was doing this for kicks when one got out of control and he scortched himself pretty badly. Next time you write or call him, ask him about it. He'll love it!

I'm just learning how to use this machine so some pages this time will have the ink too dark and will show through a bit and there are some ink spots on a few pages. Hopefully by next time I'll have it all figured out!

Last time I mentioned the fake BLACK FROG and suggested perhaps John Michalski had something to do with it. My suspicion is heightened by statements in THE BRUTUS BULLETIN #71 that credits the fake BF as legit. Now the fake was lots of fun and contained some very funny stuff but it was an obvious fake. Are you ready to confess yet, John?

Probably not, because I have it from a very good source that Jack faked his own zine! (You were right, Mark). While Bob Arnett may claim responsibility (and even done the repro for Black Jack) the reason the humor in the fake seemed so like Jack's was because it was Jack's. I wonder if Black Jack has a fake ID? He must have a fake everything else imaginable!

Marion Bates, PO Box 381, Kalkaska, MI 49646, is starting up a new DIP zine entitled PLAGUE TIMES. He says the zine will contain "all the regular dumb crap you expect: letters, articles, humor, deceit." Send him a 15¢ stamp and he will send you the first issue around the 15th of October.

WRAP-UP

Hey, I just saw the first issue of LONE STAR DIPLOMAC (see address on pg. 18) and it looks pretty good. Write Mike for a sample. Very nice repro!

Next issue may be a bit more normal sized as I'm simply working myslef into exhaustion reeently. There will be some reading material though, including an article on the play of Austria entitled "The Trieste Gambit." The final SC Chart and stats for 1979AN will appear next time so if any of you players have any endgame statements you wish printed be sure to have them in to me in time to get them typed and printed. The next deadline for all the DIPLOMACY games is October 17th. Well, you guys have a real nice time in the meantime and be sure to get those orders in on time.

Oh and one last thing, the IDA (International Diplomacy Association) is officially dead! It was declared dissolved by the IDA Council on August 6, 1980. I'll leave you with that cheerful thought and say until next month, take it easy. Now it's time for that dreaded sojourn to that land beyond the slimey wall. . . back to reality. Bye

* * * * *

Your sub expires with issue #_____

Would you please standby in game_____ on pg._____

Would you please plug my game openings ✓

Ima fool_____

Sample_____ Trade ✓

MURD'RING MINISTERS
Ron Brown
1528 El Sereno Pl.
Bakersfield, CA 93304

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Contents

STUFF.....pg.2
Editorial.....pg.3
Book Review.....pg.5
Game Openings*Standby List.....pg.6
What's In a Name?.....pg.7
RRR.....pg.8
1979HN*1979C.....pg.12
1979CW.....pg.13
1978II*1979CF.....pg.14
1979AN*1979HO.....pg.15
BIG TIMER MAGAZINE.....pg.17 and more!

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